

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 20-23 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, 8, 14 and 20 have been amended. Claims 5, 7, 10 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

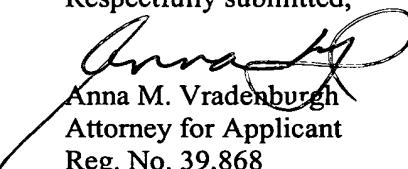
The Office rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baird. Further, the Office rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 9-11, 13 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaplan in view of Scott and rejects claims 1-5, 7-8, 11 and 23 under 37 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Baird in view of Scott. Finally, the Office rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brine and Scott as applied to claim 5. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses these rejections. The Applicant also notes that Claims 12 and 14, although withdrawn from allowance were not formally rejected on the Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicant contends these claims are allowable as originally presented.

To expedite allowance of the case, the undersigned telephoned the Examiner. The Examiner suggested a combination of claims 1, 5, 7, 10 and 12, and Claims 20 and 22. For purposes of expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 3, 8 and 14 have been amended to correct dependency in light of the amendment to claim 1.

The Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the Office pass these claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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